

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN
NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

WHITLEY COLLEGE, MELBOURNE

16th - 19th AUGUST, 1983.

"LIFE AS A GIFT FROM GOD"

M I N U T E S

TUESDAY, 16th AUGUST:

OPENING: The Meetings were officially opened with a Service of Worship in the College Church, Parkville presided over by the President, Deaconess Alfred, who led the procession of clergy, Heads of Churches or their representatives, into the Chapel.

Invited guests were representatives from all church women's organizations, women clergy, members of the Victorian Australian Church Women Unit and interested friends. Apologies were received from Lady Murray (wife of the Governor of Victoria), Mrs. Cain (wife of the Premier of Victoria) Archbishop Dann, Archbishop Sir Frank Little and Mr. Ian Allsop (Victorian Council of Churches).

The Service was prepared by Deaconess Alfred and readings from Psalm 150 and John 3:1-16 were read by the two Vice-Presidents. Responsive Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession were led by members of the Committee.

A feature of the Service was the singing by 40 children of the Junior Choir of Santa Maria College, Northcote.

The Speaker was Sister Mary Lou Moorhead, Executive Secretary of the Victorian Council of Churches, who based her address on the theme "Life as a Gift from God". She suggested that some things we see as signs of the times are life destroying while others are full of joy and happiness. Pollution, war, hunger and wealth leading to restlessness and dissatisfaction are life destroying.

The Theme - "Life is a gift from God" is a faith statement. We are people of faith and we stand for life-fulfilling things.

When we think of life destroying things we are afraid.

Three virtues, faith, hope and charity - we need to look at the gift of hope which God has given us. Let us face the reality that in our present world there are decisions made that are based on selfish motivation. Some things are done for poor and oppressed people from selfish motives and become life destroying.

Christians must not be depressed. Because we believe life is a gift from God, we must reaffirm our faith very strongly. We believe Christ conquered death and sin. We have a Saviour who has given us freedom. We believe God cares for the world. We believe God cares for us and we must respond to the challenges of the world in hope. The gift we have is to contribute and to influence the direction in which the world is going. Women have a particular contribution to make - their femininity. We need to contribute the feminine life-fulfilling gifts which we have. Many women between the ages of 18 and 25 are refusing to have children because of the present life-destroying conditions in the world. We must counteract this attitude of fear. Christ has come to conquer sin, to conquer death and to conquer our fears.

Archdeacon Chambers gave the Blessing at the end of the Service.

Following the Service, the guests and conference members were entertained at afternoon tea by the Victorian Unit.

OPENING BUSINESS SESSION:

The President welcomed everyone to the first business session mentioning those, who through illness were not able to be present: Mrs. Rachel Cocks, Mrs. Jeannie Harvey (N.T.), Mrs. Evonne Sullivan

(A.C.T.) and Mrs. Margaret Napier (W.A.).

Deaconess Alfred spoke of the three areas in which A.C.W. is involved: The World Church through the World Council of Churches; The Asian Church through Asian Church Women's Conference and the Church in Australia itself through Australian Church Women. A.C.W. is of great value to church women throughout Australia as it acts as a binding agent for small groups scattered all over this vast continent.

The President referred to members of her committee and thanked them for their support.

Roll Call: The Secretary called the roll (see list attached).

Apologies: An apology for non-attendance was received from Fran Downes who held the position of FLC Convener on the Working Committee.

Greetings were received from Jean Skuse, Marion Dodds, Keelah Day, Marj. Verco, Dorothy Hartam, Rachel Cocks, Margaret Ralph, Barbara Grealy, Tasmanian Unit and Victorian Churches of Christ C.W.F.

Procedural Arrangements as set out were noted.

Agenda : Any alterations to the Agenda as printed were called for. None required and the Agenda was adopted.

Notices of Motion: Attention was drawn to the Notices of Motion and Amendments as printed in the Working Documents and any additional Notices of Motion were called for. Notice was given of a Motion from South Australia re Winifred Kiek Scholarship and a Recommendation from New South Wales for a Scholarship for an Aboriginal Christian Woman.

Minutes of 1981 National Committee Meetings, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and it was MOVED Deaconess Mary Andrews seconded Dorothy Fry that the Minutes be verified: CARRIED

Business Arising:

Attention of the meeting was drawn to the fact that at the 1981 N.C.M. prayer partners had been drawn up and would the present arrangement continue or new partners be allocated from the present meeting. MOVED Deaconess Mary Andrews seconded Pauline Crosby that partners be allocated from this present meeting. CARRIED

Olive Ackland and Jean Hughes were appointed to draw up a list of partners.

Correspondence:

1. From South Australian Unit signifying willingness to take responsibility for Working Committee after Queensland's term of office.
2. From Eunice Kim (A.C.W.C. Executive Secretary) re 1986 Assembly. Reply to Adelaide's invitation will be given after November 1983.

REPORTS:

MOVED W. Dougherty/M. Ward that Reports as printed be taken as read. CARRIED

Secretary: Freda Morris presented her report thanking all State Units for their ready co-operation and help. She raised the question of the need for all participants to receive Minutes throughout the ensuing two years and asked that names be recorded if they wished to receive Minutes and Women at Work.

Treasurer: An audited financial statement was presented by the Treasurer, Myra Dixon, who noted that even with the downturn of the economy contributions reflected the generosity of the members. Memorial Bursary funds received had been invested

and interest from this fund amounts to \$151 in 81/82 and \$182 in 82/83.

MOVED M.Dixon/J.Adcock that the Winifred Kiek Bursary book allowance be increased to \$200. CARRIED

MOVED M.Dixon/P.Taylor-Rogers that appreciation for the work of the Honorary Auditor Mr.B.L.McBain A.A.S.A. (Senior) A.C.I.S. be placed on record and that a small gift of appreciation be presented to him. CARRIED

MOVED F.Morris/R.Callander that the reports of the Secretary and Treasurer be received and adopted. CARRIED

Deaconess Alfred expressed thanks to Myra Dixon for her meticulous attention and expert handling of the financial affairs. This was carried with acclamation.

MOTION - Constitution. Section 6. Finance.

New Clause (d)

The National Committee shall appoint an accredited Accountant resident in the State of the Working Committee, to audit the accounts.

MOVED D.Haensel/J.Roberts.

CARRIED

SECOND BUSINESS SESSION

STATE UNIT REPORTS:

- A. C. T. Mrs.P.Taylor-Rogers presented the report showing increased interest in the new suburbs. Two lunchtime services and one evening service for Fellowship Day created warm and friendly atmosphere. Evonne Sullivan was bitterly disappointed at missing the Conference because of slow recovery from eye operation. Canberra Unit members have helped their Burma Prayer Partner pay her daughter's University fees.
- N.S.W. Mrs.Y.Davis brought greetings from Glad West and Edith Ridge. Attendance at Special Days ranging from 1000-2500 and branches have increased from 27 - 36. Promotion Convener has compiled a Special Information Kit which will be sent out with denominational mailings. List of speakers being compiled to send to organisers of Services. Aboriginal Evangelical Fellowship President attended meeting.
- N.T. Mrs.D.Johnson expressed pleasure at receiving a grant for leadership training of Christain women from FLC. Successful Fellowship afternoon held in the garden. Women's Forum Mrs.Sydney Brown to speak on "Women Family and Work". Prayer requested for Jeannie Harvey who is seriously ill.
- QUEENSLAND Ruth Potter spoke of promoting fellowship across denominational divisions by encouraging women to attend Special Days and more services to be held in different areas. FLC promoted throughout the State and Unit becoming more aware of Burmese situation and able to pray knowledgeably. Highlight was having Sala as W.K.S. who, at her graduation thanked Australian Church Women for the privilege of coming to Australia for twelve months.
- S.A. Mrs.Jean Roberts in presenting the report felt that they had made forward moves. The change in meeting structure with alternate speakers on topical issues and business sessions followed by Executive Meetings was proving valuable. Visits of Dr.Thelma Adair, Malini Weerasinghe and Dien Sumiyatiningsih appreciated. Delighted to have Miss Catherine Min, present Winifred Kiek Scholar, resident in Adelaide. Eleven area lunches held between June and August. Jubilee 150 - State Unit responsible for organization of special event held by Christian women. A.C.W. Badge and teaspoons produced.

- TASMANIA** Mrs.G.Burt reported that use of the World Community Day Bible Study "Women Dare, Share and Act" had been good. Burma Prayer Partnership Day held. Burnie branch had arranged an ecumenical progressive dinner at which 300 were present from all denominations. Speakers go out to promote FLC and work going ahead in Tasmania. Special efforts made to visit isolated women in Queenstown and Scotsdale.
- VICTORIA** presented by Miss D.Fry who said that A.C.W.C. was of special interest because of the involvement of Olive Ackland as a member of the Executive of A.C.W.C. and Australian National Representative. Visit of New Zealand women was enjoyed. 3000 - 4000 services distributed on Fellowship Day and World Community Day. Features of State meeting had been the Bible Studies on "Images of Life" and the Quiet Day arranged by Sister Patricia Madigan.
- W.A.** presented by Mrs.L.Liveris who was welcomed as the first Greek Orthodox delegate to attend at National Committee Meeting. Mrs.Liveris said that the rich Greek Orthodox Church has much to contribute to the Australian Churches. Special visitors - Rathi Selvaratnam, Dr.Thelma Adair and Mrs.Ayub from Bali. Vera Wilson had shared her Bali experiences and a Forum held on Burma/Australia day. Major Service out of the city for World Community Day was conducted by seven different denominations with the speaker a Lutheran. Prayers requested for Jean Banyard who is ill.

At this stage time was taken to offer prayers for Jeannie Harvey and Jean Banyard and for Berna and Arch Foster. (Berna had been called home during the meeting because of her husband's illness).

The President drew the meeting's attention to the banners displayed - the banner taken to Manila for the Silver Jubilee of FLC, two banners made by Olive Ackland - one featuring the A.C.W. Badge and the other depicting the theme of the Conference - and the puppet given to the Victorian Unit by Dien Sumiyatiningsih.

The President then vacated the chair which was taken by Vice-President Doreen Strack.

MOTION: Constitution National Committee

4. National Committee

- (a) The words "National Committee" be changed to "National Conference" and wherever the words "National Committee" appear hereafter they shall be changed to "National Conference".
- ii. The words "Working Committee" be changed to "National Executive" and wherever the words Working Committee appear hereafter they shall be changed to "National Executive".

MOVED Deaconess Alfred/Rita Callander.

CARRIED

The President then resumed the chair.

CONVENERS' REPORTS:

Burma Prayer Partnership - Isabel Macintyre.

This is a prayer partnership that works building solidarity among women of Burma and Australia. Discussion ensued at to the length of the country prayer partnership and it was felt that because it had taken so long to see worthwhile results it would seem to be valuable to continue as now for the foreseeable future. Olive Ackland was asked to discuss this matter with the Executive Committee of A.C.W.C.

Special Days - Olive Ackland.

Despite difficulties the orders of services for both Special Days had been favourably received by the States. It seems that the fact of high printing costs are still the determining factor as to the length of the service. It would be beneficial to local groups to allow some time in the service where they could use their own creativity.

MOVED Deaconess Mary Andrews/Mrs. Patricia Taylor-Rogers that all reports be received.

The first day of the Meetings concluded with evening Worship led by the Tasmanian Unit on the theme of Thanksgiving for the gift of life and God's creation.

WEDNESDAY, 17th AUGUST, 1983.

Morning devotions in the Chapel were led by the Queensland delegation on the theme of the abundant life in Christ.

BIBLE STUDY (1)

Vice-President I. Macintyre introduced Carolyn Everitt who led in a time of singing and praise after which the President introduced Commissioner Eva Burrows who had prepared the outline for the series of studies and would lead the first one. Life through the New Birth

Gift of life to every new born child. Women have been given the precious opportunity of bearing children - Luke 1:46. Conscious of the value of life. A life is a gift from God. John 3: 1-6 Nicodemus went to Jesus Christ himself for the answers he required. Jesus has the gift of life vs. 5 & 6. John 5: 19-24.

Beware of death through aimlessness. Death through formality. Sardis - Revelation. Church which does not expect its prayers to be answered. Church which does not accept concept of Christian love - dead.

People dead when conscience no longer works. How do you bring life back to them?

The session concluded with discussion on the questions - Where is Hope? How the Holy Spirit works? How eternal life affects me today?

BUS TOUR

The members of the Conference journeyed by bus to the Knoxfield Community Relations Centre where they were informed of the work being carried out there.

This Centre is using a church building as a Women's Community Centre where counselling, information and fellowship activities are offered. It has received funding from the Government Unemployment Initiative Scheme and from the Uniting Church Share Appeal to work in two areas of concern, namely: in domestic violence and in the development of a positive self image in teenage girls. Here, also, it is women working together to overcome isolation (poor public transport) and to find a fuller meaning in living by drawing on community resources.

There are two mature women working full-time and two younger women reaching out to the teenage girls who are walking the streets unemployed and aimless. Through this reaching out, the centre is trying to improve the girls' self esteem and works preventively. All staff is only paid for three days a week and give voluntarily of their time for the rest of the week. Staff receives much care and stimulation from the Rev. Ann Drummond Gowers.

After leaving the Knox Centre the members of the Conference journeyed to the Church of St. John the Baptist at Ferntree Gully where they were provided with a delicious lunch by the ladies of that Church.

After lunch we gathered in the Church for the

THIRD BUSINESS SESSION:

CONVENERS' REPORTS:

Winifred Kiek Scholar: Jean Hughes

Jean Hughes outlined some of the difficulties and frustrations involved in the negotiations required in the selection and travel arrangements necessary for the scholar each year and, after answering questions, introduced the 1983 scholar, Miss Catherine Min, who told us of her life and work in Korea. Jean Hughes then announced that the Winifred Kiek Scholar for 1984 would be Dr. Mrs. Sushila Rao from Madras who will be based for study in Sydney.

Asian Church Women's Conference presented by Olive Ackland assisted by Mrs. V. Wilson, Di Johnson and Bernice Mason.

Vera Wilson spoke about her cottage friends at the Bali Conference and of visiting homes around the Retreat Centre, Dyhana Pura, and some of the poverty nearby. The highlight she presented was the final vesper session - candles were lit and carried down to the cross on the beach - a long line of flickering lights forming into a circle around the President and Past-President.

Di Johnson told of the Agape Meal conducted by Rev. Mastra and Dorothy McMahon - participants sat on grass mats around the low table surmounted by the oil lamp and the wooden cross, pyramids of fruit and jugs of tea and coffee were placed on the table. These were the elements which each could take and offer to another in love or reconciliation. Thus interpreting Balinese culture in a Christian way.

Bernice Mason also spoke of the significance of the Agape Meal. Since the experience in Bali, Bernice has been led to further studies in Community Development at the Adelaide Institute of Technology.

Olive Ackland told of her prayer partnership with Jane in Taiwan, the fact that Taiwanese delegates were unable to participate because of visa difficulties and showed a scroll sent to her from Taiwan.

A.C.W.C. Assembly was a time of inspiration, as beautiful children from Balinese Churches welcomed delegates with their graceful cultural dances in the garden setting of Dyhana Pura, Retreat Centre set up by the Indonesian Council of Churches.

The President thanked the Ferntree Gully ladies for their hospitality and it was MOVED P. Taylor-Rogers/D. Haensel that we record our appreciation. CARRIED.

Members then rejoined the buses and were taken for a scenic tour over the Dandenong range through Belgrave, Kallista, Ferny Creek and Olinda.

FOURTH BUSINESS SESSION:

CONVENER'S REPORT:

Fellowship of the Least Coin: Rita Callander (for F. Downes) Rita mentioned the four grants received by Australia and the fact that the question of an affluent country receiving grants had been raised. We should remember that it was by receiving a gift that Australia first heard of Fellowship of the Least Coin. FLC was now administered by an International Committee and all Continents receive grants. It was again stressed that it was the prayer and not the money that was the important element of FLC.

DENOMINATIONAL REPORTS:

ANGLICAN: Australian Board of Missions - Mrs.M.Fleming.
A.B.M. is a supporting group in prayer and substance to missions and to churches established in Melanesia and the Pacific. Australia is a partner in mission as it supports the indigenous churches with block grants. Prayer support important. 1983 special project is the building of a College in the Highlands of New Guinea to train lay evangelists.

Mothers' Union - Mrs.A.Dunn.

South Pacific Consultation brought together people from Pacific and Melanesian areas. Support is given to the Bishops of the Northern Australian areas. "Message Home" scheme established in Queensland was explained by Mrs.S.Turner. Young people who have left home can ring in and leave a message to be relayed to parents. Promotion is done by placing posters in places where young people gather.

BAPTIST: Australian Baptist Women's Fellowship - Miss D.Clack.
This was a co-ordinating body. Main work done through States. Encouraging Leadership training courses. Aboriginal groups reaching out to their own women - Ethnic groups - Young people - Important that they can express their faith in their own way.

CATHOLIC: Catholic Women's League - Mrs.T.Penny.
Highlight was National Conference organised by 53 women from Alice Springs and Darwin in July 1983. 500 women present at open-air dinner. Asian Pacific Regional Conference in Jakarta - speakers Marianne Katoppo and Sister Rosemary Huber.

CHURCHES OF CHRIST: - Mrs.N.Ellement.
Every Christian woman is a sister in Christ, caring and sharing, having a loving concern for others. Next National Conference will be in Perth in 1984 - theme "That they may have life". Next World Convention will be held in Jamaica in 1984.

SALVATION ARMY: Eastern Territory - Major Venables.
Women have been taking their place with the men of the Army since the time of Catherine Booth in 1859. There are more trained women officers than men commanding positions in Corps, Social Institutions and Administrative Boards, even to the appointment of a Commissioner e.g. Commissioner Eva Burrows in Southern Territory. Home League encourages leadership training by correspondence courses.

UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA: - Mrs.F.Marshall.
In its six years of existence the U.C.A. has learned to live with diversity and to be flexible. Last year the need was felt for a national body for fellowship groups and the National Committee for Adult Fellowship Groups was set up to receive reports and appoint representatives to world bodies etc. South Pacific Seminar of Methodist Women - February 1984 to be held in Melbourne. Two Open services February 5 at 7 p.m. at Wesley Church and Feb.9 at 7.30 p.m. at the Pharmacy College.

AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES - Mrs.W.Dougherty.
Commission on Faith and Order has been re-established with strong representation from Lutheran and Roman Catholic Churches. Study and promotion of Lima Document on Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry. Vancouver Assembly - "Jesus Christ, the Life of the World". The A.C.C. are working with the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace on a joint Social Justice Statement.

They have also convened a Consultation on "The Power of Hope: Peacemaking Confronts the Nuclear Evil" in Canberra. "Living Water" is theme for Christmas Bowl. Resolution of A.C.C. that they should have conversations with the Northern Territory re the establishment there of a Council of Churches. Coptic Church needs our prayers.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: Mrs.D.Armstrong.
Australia to prepare Service for 1986 with theme "Choose Life". 1984 theme will be "Living Water". Centenary of W.W.D.P. is in 1987. This day of prayer began when a Presbyterian woman called women together to pray about the conditions of immigrants in America.
MOTION: That the Reports be received - P.Taylor-Rogers/
Deaconess M.Andrews. CARRIED

CONVENERS' REPORTS:

Women at Work: - R.Callander.
Articles for Women at Work are needed to ensure the success of this newsletter. It would be of great value if each state would appoint a correspondent whose responsibility it would be to see that information was forwarded. Convener's name and address needs to be printed on Women at Work.

Promotions: I.Macintyre.
Communication needs to go to the grass root level in order to be effective. Publicity and promotion officers need to be appointed in each state to develop the bilateral sharing of information and the production of media sheets to go to all media outlets - press, T.V. and Radio.
Catherine Min to be interviewed on Channel 10 at 11 a.m. Olive Ackland spoke with Alex Kenworthy on his Talkback Show. Isabel Macintyre to write an article on the Conference for Channel O. Promotion Kit given to each State.

MOTION: That all Conveners' Reports during the day be adopted. F.Marshall/M.Himbury. CARRIED

MOTION: Amendment to the Constitution - from South Australia.

4. NATIONAL COMMITTEE

New Clause (g) Appointments

Appointments of representatives and delegates to other bodies (e.g. A.C.W.C., Council of Churches etc.) shall be by ballot at National Committee Meeting, from nominations received six weeks prior to the National Committee Meetings. Any member in good standing in any denomination affiliated to a State Unit of A.C.W. may be nominated for any such position.

Amendment from Western Australia to add the words "and may not be taken from the floor".

The Meeting was informed that South Australia had agreed to incorporate these words in their motion provided they were in brackets.

The Amended Motion was moved by D.Haensel/J.Roberts. Discussion ensued but no agreement was reached and It was Moved J.Stevenson/J.Cooper that South Australia reword this motion and present it at the next business session. CARRIED

The day concluded with evening worship presented by the South Australian Unit with a dance sequence based on one of Bruce Prewer's Australian Psalms.

During supper slides were shown taken by O.Ackland and V.Wilson at Bali and slides brought by Catherine Min.

THURSDAY, 18th AUGUST.

Morning devotions in the Chapel were led by the Northern Territory Unit using the story of Elijah to illustrate thoughts on the theme of the Conference.

BIBLE STUDY (2) The Bread of Life

The praise session again led by Carolyn Everitt was varied by a presentation from the Salvation Army Cadet Timbrellist group.

Deaconess Alfred introduced Sister Betty Paul, an ordained deacon of the Church of South India working with the Uniting Church in Ringwood.

Sister Paul based her study on John 6:1-13: v.40,44,47,50. The Bread of Life. Bread is for giving - "Inasmuch".

Blessed are the hungry.

Mother feeding her child - life for someone who is hungry.
life for someone who cannot live without it.

God the Creator - Giver of bread - physical life.

He is also the hungry one identifying himself with all the beggars. Jesus said "I am the Bread of Life" - gave himself on the Cross.

He gives the bread to be eaten and consumed. Take his life into our lives - he becomes part of our system. "It is no longer I but Christ who lives in me".

Jesus meets the need then explains the meaning of the miracle (John 6:25-29).

He is the bread of heaven who gives us peace.

Look at our churchlife - what is it gives our soul hunger? How can we kindle this hunger?

We see the hunger but we don't see the hunger of the soul. Small percentage to wipe out world hunger - but there is greater spiritual hunger. "I was dead but now I live!"

REV. FATHER MAGUIRE

The Secretary, Freda Morris, introduced Father Maguire, Parish Priest of St Peter and Paul, South Melbourne who came to speak on the "Abuse of Children in Prostitution and Pornography" but changed his talk into a compelling challenge to Christians on the exploitation of the poor and the interpretation of the Gospel. He claimed that Marxists use that half of the Gospel that Christians have thrown into the rubbish bin, and not until the body corporate of the Church has nailed itself to the Cross will we have a Christian Church.

He asked - "Does the Church want to be Christian or does it want to be a Club? Does it want to go after the lost sheep?"

Child pornography and drug pushing are a result of greed.

The community has made a decision to get rich but the community must relieve the plight of those who have less.

Alex McDonald worked in his Parish with the street children and it was like working with autistic children. It needed very special qualities to work with these people. Some women showed those qualities.

Children needed to see solidarity. To these people Alex McDonald was Jesus.

Father Maguire found that the police had dispersed the prostitutes and they were spread around his Parish and he was called on by them when someone died.

The talk was interspersed with humour but the underlying message was clear and made a deep impression.

The President thanked Father Maguire and at the end of the afternoon business session it was MOVED M.Fleming, seconded V.Clarke that an offering be taken at the Closing Service to send to help the work of Father Maguire and Alex McDonald. CARRIED.

This offering amounted to \$242.

FIFTH BUSINESS SESSION

The President opened this session with prayer.
South Australia submitted the re-worded Motion in the
resumption of business from Wednesday evening.

MOTION:4. NATIONAL COMMITTEE"Appointments (new clause 'g')

The National Conference shall appoint delegates and
observers to the Assembly of Asian Church Women's
Conference and such other organisations as shall be
determined by the National Conference.

Such appointments shall be by ballot from nominations
received six weeks prior to the National Conference.

If insufficient nominations are received it shall be
the responsibility of the National Executive to

submit the required number of nominations. No
nominations shall be accepted from the floor of the
National Conference.

Any ACW member in good standing in any denomination
affiliated to a State Unit of ACW may be nominated
for any such position.

In the event of appointments being necessary between
National Conferences, nominations shall be called
from State Units and a postal ballot conducted within
a time stated by National Executive. "

Moved Dorothy Haensel seconded Deaconess Mary Andrews.

MOVED Judith Cooper/Janet Stevenson, the following
Amendment:

4. NATIONAL COMMITTEE"Appointments (new clause 'g')

Appointments of representatives to National and
International bodies shall be by ballot at National
Conference, from nominations received six months
prior to the National Conference.

Any member in good standing in any denomination
affiliated to a State Unit of A.C.W. may be
nominated for any such position."

Voting on the Amendment 19 for 11 against - as this
was a Constitutional matter and needed a 2/3rds
majority this was LOST

The original motion was then put and the voting
was 18 for 12 against and was also LOST

MOTION: From South Australia re New Constitution.

MOVED Pauline Crosby seconded Dorothy Haensel -

"That a committee of five members be set up to prepare
a new Constitution for Australian Church Women to
submit to the National Committee at its meeting in
1985. The time schedule to be:-

First draft to all units by June 1984, to be returned
to Committee with comments and alterations by August
31st, 1984.

Second draft to all units by October 1984, to be
returned by December 1984, and final draft to all
states by April 30th 1985, for adoption at meeting
in August (or whenever that meeting is held)."

MOVED Olive Ackland seconded Dorothy Fry the following
Amendment:

"instead of the words 'to prepare a new Constitution
for A.C.W.' substitute the words 'to revise the
Constitution for A.C.W.'"

After discussion the Mover and Seconder of the original Motion agreed to substitute the word "revise the" for "prepare a new" in their motion and there was a unanimous vote in favour. CARRIED.

It was suggested that any necessary guidelines could be included in the by-laws and attached to the Constitution.

MOTION: THAT this Conference ask the South Australian Unit to form a committee of five members to prepare a revised Constitution. Moved Leonie Liveris/Joan Miller. CARRIED.

South Australia agreed to undertake this task.

WINIFRED KIEK TRAVELLING FELLOW

Jean Hughes introduced a discussion to evaluate the benefits of the Travelling Fellow to Australian Church Women and decide whether this was a justifiable expense. Discussion revealed that a Travelling Fellow is beneficial to Australian Church Women And It was Agreed "That we explore the possibility of Mrs. Eunice Kim coming to Australia at a convenient time as our Travelling Fellow, and that we ask for the earliest possible notice". If able to come she could be the speaker if a special day is held for the 25th Jubilee of A.C.W.C.

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

The Secretary introduced a discussion on whether a Special FLC Day Service should be held by reading a letter from Eunice Kim asking that this should be done. States were unanimous that it was impossible to hold another Special Day and that World Community Day still be held. It was agreed that more emphasis should be placed on the real purpose of Fellowship of the Least Coin - Prayer, peace and Reconciliation and that some place be given in the Community Day Service for a Prayer of Dedication for the Least Coin gifts.

ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

MOTION: Moved Olive Ackland seconded Isabel Macintyre "THAT each State have some special service of their own for 25th Anniversary of A.C.W.C." CARRIED.

RECOMMENDATION: from the Working Committee - "THAT the National Working Committee shall be responsible for the stationery, postage and telephone expenses of the National Representative to A.C.W.C." Moved D.Strack/Deaconess M.Andrews. CARRIED

Guidelines for election of representatives to A.C.W.C. as outlined at National Committee Meeting in Perth 1977 to go to Committee for revision of Constitution.

RECOMMENDATION: from the Treasurer of the Working Committee - "THAT the price of the Asian Church Woman bulletin be increased to \$2.50 Aust. per-year and to be reviewed again in 1984". MOVED Myra Dixon seconded Vera Wilson CARRIED Money needs to be in by the end of November and there should be clear instructions as to the number required and the name and full address of the person to whom the books are to be sent.

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP

MOTION: MOVED Dorothy Haensel/Pauline Crosby "THAT consideration be given to the Winifred Kiek Scholarship being administered by:
1. Convener of Winifred Kiek Scholarship who is a member of National Executive to act as liaison between State Units of Australian Church Women and

2. Sub-committees who are to be responsible for
 - (a) selection, admission and education of scholar
 - (b) Trustees of funds raised and disbursement of same. "

South Australia pointed out that this motion only asked for 'consideration to be given' and they visualised a permanent committee located in Canberra with easy access to embassies. Problems of legal difficulties with a Trustee Fund were raised.

CARRIED

REQUEST : from New South Wales -

"The New South Wales Unit request that the National Executive considers establishing a similar scholarship to the Winifred Kiek for an Aboriginal Christian woman to study at a place of education with a view to her returning to her area qualified to assist or establish Christian work amongst her people. We urge that the consideration be thorough, but not delayed as we believe the matter is an urgent one."

Proposed by Mary Andrews/Mabel Ward.

In explanation Deaconess Andrews said that aboriginal women are able to get a government grant for College or University, but not to attend a Christian College. State delegates are asked to go back to their Units and report this proposal then report back to the National Executive by the first week in November.

SUBMISSION: "THAT the A.C.W. expresses its concern on the plight of the 16-18 year olds who have left home and receive only the \$50 per week Unemployment benefit but no accommodation funding.

We recommend to the meeting that a 'Working Party' of four to five Victorian persons be formed to act on behalf of the National A.C.W. to further means of supporting the Community Relations Centre at Scoresby. "

MOVED D.Johnson/Leonie Liveris.

CARRIED

MOTION: F.Morris/P.Taylor-Rogers "THAT with the letter of Support we send a donation of \$100 from this Conference. "

CARRIED

Sister Patricia Madigan offered to make personal contact with the Knox Community Centre re other ways in which we can be involved.

APPOINTMENTS TO AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Mrs.G.Burt moved seconded Mrs.D.Haensel that Mrs.Win Dougherty be appointed as A.C.W. representative to the Australian Council of Churches and Mrs.Elizabeth Walker the alternate representative.

CARRIED

RECOGNITION OF RACHEL COCKS

Mrs.Win Dougherty moved seconded Mrs.Fay Gray - "THAT the National Committee of Australian Church Women meeting in Melbourne, Victoria, 16-19 August, 1983, recognise the splendid manner in which Mrs.Rachel Horn Cocks has discharged her responsibilities as representative of Australian Church Women to the Asian Church Women's Conference 1974-1982 and the valuable contribution she has made as a member of the Executive of that Conference 1978-1982. This National Committee records its deep appreciation of her loving service."

CARRIED

A book token will be delivered to her by the Tasmanian delegation.

The evening worship was conducted by the New South Wales Unit using Micah 6. verse 8. "What does the Lord require of thee, but to do justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with thy God".

INTERNATIONAL NIGHT OPEN NIGHT AT PHARMACY COLLEGE

The Open night attracted a number of visitors who enjoyed the delightful programme arranged by Doreen Strack with help from Major Corfield (Salvation Army) and Doreen Gordon and June St. Aubyn.

The programme included an opening segment of Australian songs followed by dancing from Chilean and Laotian groups of young people and a Vietnamese magician concluding with an excellent address on the World Council of Churches Assembly in Vancouver by Helen Banks. (Copies of Mrs. Banks' address will be made available on request).

Supper was served by the Moreland Salvation Army Corps.

FRIDAY, 19th AUGUST.

Morning devotions in the Chapel were conducted by the W.A. Unit and featured an opening in the Greek Orthodox tradition by Leonie Liveris.

BIBLE STUDY (3) The Water of Life

Carolyn Everitt again conducted the praise time with soloist Del Harvey, after which the President introduced Sister Patricia Madigan, Sister Superior of The Presentation Convent in Ferntree Gully.

Using the story of the Woman at the Well in John 4 Sister Patricia led in a deeply relaxing study.

Drink in my Words - John 4: 10-15

Drink in my Ways - John 4: 16-26

Drink in my Will - John 4: 27-42

Lift up your eyes and see opportunities to proclaim the Gospel. Sense the need in people's lives. Recognise their need of deliverance from things which debase life. Point them to the Saviour.

SIXTH BUSINESS SESSION

As there was no unfinished business except the Presentation of the New Working Committee the Conference members formed into groups and discussed the following questions:

1. What is your hope for an organization such as A.C.W.?
2. Do you experience Christian Fellowship among local Church Women which you can truly celebrate on Fellowship Day?
3. How can we encourage local Church women to work together in the Community not just attend Community Day?
4. Are you interested in truly learning from one another regarding worship, rituals, beliefs, organisation, structure, authority? How?

The following are the findings on each question:-

Question 1.

1. Increase of women, who will be strongly committed to the aims of A.C.W.
2. That A.C.W. will assist its members to take a prophetic role in the Churches.
3. That by attuning ourselves to community issues A.C.W. can act as a catalyst in the community.
4. That we will continue to forge links with Asian women.
5. To increasingly facilitate unity among Christian women.
6. To promote A.C.W. among the Churches and society generally through effective use of the media.
7. Encourage Christian women to take part in the whole life of the Church.
8. A continuing fraternal with Australian Council of Churches.

Question 1. (contd.)

9. Encouragement of younger women as members of A.C.W.
10. A.C.W. at the forefront of enhancing the position of women (e.g. battered wives etc.)
11. Leadership training of women not based on male models.

Question 2.

1. Find out when women's meetings are held and seek opportunities to address such meetings.
2. Contact denominations not represented at State Units.
3. Position of State President should be held by different denominations.
4. Need for greater commitment at local level therefore outreach by A.C.W.
5. A lead up to Fellowship Day - it is not enough to have a Church Service, fellowship must be experienced outside the day.

Question 3.

1. Annual luncheon of local Church women to provide funds for a third world country.
2. Cultural Service in the Park - A.C.T. for Community Day.
3. Working together - Care in crisis situations, at local level.

Question 4.

1. Talking together at grassroots.
2. Vacation Bible Schools.
3. Study "Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry" produced by World Council of Churches and as it relates to women.

CLOSING SERVICE

Before the Service commenced the President, Deaconess Alfred presented the members of the Incoming Working Committee who were present and read the names of those unable to attend:-

President:	Mrs. Lena Meadows
Vice-Presidents:	Mrs. Val Clarke
	Mrs. Mary Carroll
Secretary:	Mrs. Sheela Turner
Treasurer:	Mrs. Ailsa Skippen
F.L.C. Convener:	Mrs. Ina Collard
W.K.S. Convener:	Mrs. Mollie-Jean Hunt
Special Days Convener	Mrs. Maj. Averil Whybird
Women At Work Convener	Miss Helen Trudgian

and it was Moved and Seconded that all ladies listed be elected to office.

CARRIED

Mrs. Doreen Strack, on behalf of the retiring Committee thanked Deaconess Alfred for her loving leadership and presented her with a book token from her committee members.

The Closing Service (prepared by Isabel Macintyre) featured Creative Movement based on the Beatitudes and the handing over of lighted candles by members of the retiring committee to the new committee members.

Lena Meadows, the new President, addressed the meeting, thanking the retiring Committee and expressing the hope that Queensland would continue to uphold the traditions of Australian Church Women.

Signed

Date

PARTICIPANTS

Life Member:

Working Committee:

Andrews, Head Deaconess Mary

Alfred, Deaconess E.	President
Macintyre, Mrs. Lieut. Col. I.	Vice-President
Strack, Mrs. D.	Vice-President
Morris, Mrs. F.	Secretary
Dixon, Mrs. M.	Treasurer
Ackland, Mrs. O.	Special Days Cver.
Hughes, Mrs. J.	W.K.S. Convener
Downes, Mrs. F. (absent)	F.L.C. Convener
Callander, Mrs. Brig. R.	W. at W. Convener
Foster, Mrs. B.	Minute Secretary

State Units

A.C.T.

New South Wales

Northern Territory

Queensland

South Australia

Tasmania

Victoria

West Australia

Delegates

Taylor-Rogers, Mrs. P.
Adcock, Mrs. J.
Davis, Mrs. Y.
Ward, Brigadier M.
Johnson, Mrs. D.
Cooper, Mrs. J.
Clarke, Mrs. V.
Potter, Mrs. R.
Haensel, Mrs. D.
Roberts, Mrs. J.
Burt, Mrs. G.
Stevenson, Mrs. J.
Himbury, Mrs. M.
Fry, Miss D.
Liveris, Mrs. L.
Miller, Miss J.

Observers

Sherwin, Mrs. A.
Gray, Mrs. F.
Blackwell, Miss E.
Walker, Mrs. E.

Meadows, Mrs. L.
Skippen, Mrs. A.
Chittleborough Mrs. M.
Crosby, Mrs. P.
Brooks, Mrs. S.
Thomas, Mrs. R.
Madigan, Sister P.
Ashlin, Mrs. D.
Wilson, Mrs. V.
Scurlock, Mrs. M.

Federal Organizations

Anglican

Churches of Christ

Salvation Army

Society of Friends

Uniting Church

Australian Council of Churches

Fleming, Mrs. M.

Ellement, Mrs. N.

Venables, Major J.

Cooper, Mrs. M.

Marshall, Mrs. F.

Dougherty, Mrs. W.

Forge, Mrs. J.

Parry, Mrs. S.

Invited Federal Organizations

Baptist Women's Fellowship

Catholic Women's League

Clack, Miss D.

Penny, Mrs. T.

Consultant

Women's World Day of Prayer - National Liaison Officer

Armstrong, Mrs. D.

Victorian Invited Observers

Anglican

Baptist

Churches of Christ

Salvation Army

Uniting Church

Dunn, Mrs. A.

Warner, Mrs. E.

Hilbig, Mrs. P.

Smith, Mrs. Capt. N.

Vanclay, Mrs. D.

Invited Observer

Mason, Mrs. B.

Winifred Kiek Scholar

Min, Miss Catherine

Incoming Working Committee

Meadows, Mrs. L.
Clarke, Mrs. V.
Turner, Mrs. S.
Skippen, Mrs. A.
Trudgian, Miss H.